

**HSSCO SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
& ANNUAL STATE PROFILE REPORT**
Activities for January – December 2008

Washington

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Briefly describe your accomplishments in the following areas.

1. Facilitate collaboration among Early Head Start and Head Start grantees and entities that provide child and family services to low-income families. Describe your accomplishments and outcomes in the following areas.

Health Care

Head Start/AAPD Dental Home Initiative:

The HSSCO participated as a Leadership Team member for the Washington AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative, a federal-state partnership designed to increase access to dental homes for Head Start children. The HS-SCO supports the initiative by helping to coordinate participation of Head Start programs in the activities, in addition to participating in planning efforts with the Leadership Team in setting the overall direction of the initiative (i.e., developing the work plan, etc.).

WA Department of Health State Oral Health Plan:

The HSSCO is a member of the State Oral Health Plan Advisory Team, which was convened to advise the Department of Health in building a state plan for oral health for birth-elderly. The HSSCO provides information and data, as well as supporting the overall implementation, evaluation, and sustainability phases of the finalized state oral health plan.

Department of Health Tobacco Cessation Project Advisory Team:

The HS-SCO participates as an advisory team member to the WA Department of Health's Head Start Tobacco Cessation Project, an effort designed to provide training to Head Start staff related to using appropriate interviewing techniques when working with families about the effects of tobacco use.

Welfare and Child Welfare

HS/EHS Data Share Agreements:

The HSSCO has 31 data share agreements to provide DSHS client data to Head Start/Early Head Start programs in Washington for recruitment and enrollment purposes. Four data share agreements are with tribal Head Start programs. This past year, the HSSCO amended several data share agreements to allow for ECEAP recruitment (one stop shop). The Department of Early Learning currently holds responsibility for maintaining the data share agreements.

WSA Foster Care Panel:

The HS-SCO participated on a foster care panel coordinated by the Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP (WSA), in partnership with Casey Family Programs. The purpose of the panel was to provide Head Start staff with information about the current status of foster care services in Washington and across the nation, and to engage in a discussion for how WSA, along with key partners, might develop a plan to address key issues that programs are facing in serving this vulnerable population. WSA plans to work with the HS-SCO/DEL, DSHS, and other state-level entities in establishing an advisory team to guide future work around this issue.

Education

Collaborative Leadership Institute:

The HSSCO continued to support the Collaborative Leadership Institute (CLI), the ten-month intensive training institute for growing leaders in the early learning and care field. The goal of the CLI is a renewed and lasting network of leaders prepared to advance innovative approaches that benefit children and families in Washington. Now embarking on its third year, the CLI has continued to represent highly positive results, though more recent follow-up with graduates is needed to assess outcomes. All participants have a greater understanding of their own leadership style and potential, and

developed a network of colleagues from other disciplines and types of organizations that will help them as they work to improve early learning and help children in Washington.

OSPI Full-Day Kindergarten Orientation:

The HS-SCO represented the Department of Early Learning at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) Full-Day Kindergarten Orientation. The HS-SCO provided a presentation regarding strategies for Kindergarten and other school district staff in "making connections" with early learning providers (including Head Start and Early Head Start programs) across the state.

Professional Development

Head Start Higher Education Roundtable:

The HS-SCO participated as a team member of the Head Start Higher Education Roundtable initiative in Washington, an effort to identify current barriers and increase opportunities for Head Start and Early Head Start staff to obtain teacher degrees as required in the Head Start Act of 2007. The HS-SCO is currently working with the Region X Office of Head Start in identifying potential funding opportunities to support Head Start programs in implementing specific strategies for addressing key professional development barriers.

DEL Professional Development Consortium:

The HS-SCO participates as a member of the Department of Early Learning Professional Development Consortium, an initiative designed to develop recommendations for a statewide, integrated professional development system in Washington State. The HSSCO funded a mapping project conducted by the University of Washington to evaluate current professional development initiatives as one step to begin building the process.

Community Services

DEL Methamphetamine Summit 2008:

The HS-SCO provided leadership in the development and implementation of the DEL Methamphetamine Summit 2008, which included facilitation of multiple work groups; contract execution; coordination with an event planner; securing presenters; and overall coordination of the event. The purpose of the Summit, initiated as a result of feedback from Head Start staff and parents, was designed to: 1) create awareness and share information about methamphetamine in Washington communities; 2) share information and strategies for supporting families impacted by methamphetamine; and 3) share strategies related to how caregivers, providers and teachers can support young children who have been affected by methamphetamine (in classrooms and care settings). Participants included Head Start and Early Head Start staff, Tribal Head Start staff, child care providers, and other early learning professionals.

Family Literacy Services

Culture of Literacy (COL) Task Force:

The HS-SCO represented the Department of Early Learning as a task force member on Thrive By Five Washington's Culture of Literacy Task Force. The goal of the COL Task Force is to institute a "culture of literacy" throughout Washington State for all young children and their families, and plans to execute this vision by implementing a comprehensive approach to building literacy systems at the community-level, as well as influencing transformation at the state level.

Services to Children with Disabilities

University of Washington Head Start Inclusion Advisory Board:

The HS-SCO was invited to serve on the University of Washington's Head Start Inclusion Advisory Board, an effort to support a recent Head Start grant awarded to the institution to improve the inclusive

experience of children with disabilities and their families in Head Start through authentic professional development approaches.

Services to Homeless Children and Families

OSPI/DEL/DSHS Serving Homeless Children Videoconference:

The HS-SCO, in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), collaborated in an effort to provide a statewide videoconference titled “Helping Young Children Who Are Homeless”. Participants from across Washington included school district McKinney Vento Liaisons, Head Start and Early Head Start program staff, child care providers, Special Education staff from Part B (school districts) and Part C (Infant/Toddler Early Intervention Program staff), and a number of other early learning-related entities. The purpose of the conference was to develop a shared understanding of the McKinney-Vento Act; to understand services offered and basic referral procedures of various organizations and school districts; to identify strategies to improve outreach to homeless families; and to create local partnerships in order to increase coordination among agencies/organizations.

OSPI/DEL/DSHS Serving Homeless Children Partnership:

As a result of the feedback received from the “Helping Young Children Who Are Homeless” videoconference, OSPI, DEL, and DSHS are partnering to identify key strategies for coordinating opportunities for communities across Washington to meet regularly to discuss collaborative approaches for serving homeless children and families.

2. Facilitate Head Start’s involvement in the development of state policies, plans, processes and decisions. If applicable, include your activities as a member of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

The HSSCO has continued to provide a single point of contact for Head Start within the state and worked closely with the state association with recruiting HS, EHS, MSHS, and AI/AN participation in state planning efforts. The HSSCO connected groups working on related issues and assured local Head Start representation on various state work groups and committees. Some efforts in 2008 included:

- **Head Start Higher Education Roundtable** (*see above*)
- **DEL Professional Development Consortium** (*see above*)
- **DEL Methamphetamine Summit 2008** (*see above*)
- **Washington Head Start Bill (SSHB 5183):** The HS-SCO provided leadership to the development of the Department of Early Learning’s approach to the Washington Head Start Study, required by the Washington State Legislature in Second Substitute House Bill 3168. Head Start representatives from across the state were invited to participate in an advisory committee (led by the HSSCO) to inform the development of the process for implementing 5183.

Role with the Washington State DEL Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC): In October 2008, the HS-SCO was assigned the role of Staff to the DEL Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC), a role that requires intensive coordination of ELAC meetings and related activities.

Briefly discuss the following aspects of your work:

1. Provide a detailed description of the work you have completed to date on the required assessment of the needs of Head Start grantees in the State with respect to coordination, collaboration, alignment

of services and alignment of curricula and assessments, and a description of the work you have completed on developing the five-year strategic plan.

A significant effort of the HS-SCO in Washington over the last year involved the development and implementation of a statewide needs assessment of Head Start programs, a new requirement outlined in section 642B of the Head Start Act of 2007. The HS-SCO worked closely with an internal and external advisory team (including representatives from Head Start programs, the State Association, and the AI/AN and Migrant/Seasonal Collaboration Offices) to guide the development of the needs assessment process, which was released to programs in the form of Survey Monkey in October 2008. Due to the Governor's state spending freeze on personal services contracts announced in August 2008, the HS-SCO was unable to expend federal funds specifically allocated for contractual services; therefore, internal resources and expertise were sought to support activities necessary to execute the work. Following the collection of data from programs, the HS-SCO engaged an advisory team of key partners and internal staff to analyze and identify overall trends and key priority areas that are currently guiding the development of the HS-SCO five-year strategic plan, due in June 2009.

2. Describe how you have supported and collaborated with the Regional Office on national and regional priorities (such as Fatherhood, Faith-Based and Community, Healthy Marriage, Youth and Rural Initiatives and TA Network, professional development, Community Action Agencies, State Head Start Association, and other activities).

In 2008, the HSSCO continued to work closely with the Regional Office, the T/TA Network, and the Head Start Association as significant partners by involving them in a number of HSSCO projects and initiatives. Individuals from the Regional Office, T/TA Network, and the Head Start Association were invited to participate in many levels of the planning and implementation of projects and initiatives in 2008, including the Head Start Higher Education Roundtable and the Head Start/AAPD Dental Home Initiative.

Briefly describe your efforts to support the coordination of Head Start services to American Indian/Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs in your State.

In 2008, the HSSCO partnered with the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Migrant/Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) Collaboration Offices in conducting the Washington statewide needs assessment of Head Start programs. MSHS and AI/AN programs completed the Washington-based survey, which included questions specific to the needs of their programs. The MSHS and AI/AN Collaboration Offices assisted in helping to communicate the needs assessment process with grantees, and the Washington HSSCO facilitated the data collection and analysis process. In 2009, the HSSCO will work with the AI/AN and MSHS Collaboration Directors to determine where the programs might be incorporated into Washington's five-year strategic plan.

In addition, the HSSCO continued its partnership with the Migrant/Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office in supporting the ongoing development of the Rivers of Culture/Rios de Cultura Coalition in the lower Yakima Valley of Washington State. These efforts specifically focused on the needs of Hispanic children and families in Central Washington, both immigrant and non-immigrant, with the primary goal of the coalition to ensure the preservation of children's language and culture throughout their early learning experiences.

Describe additional activities and successes in the past year.

DEL Early Learning Plan Workgroup: The HS-SCO participated as a staff lead to the DEL Early Learning Plan Workgroup, a group convened for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Department's

Early Learning Advisory Council regarding key next steps for developing a statewide comprehensive early learning plan.

Rivers of Culture/Rios de Cultura Coalition

In partnership with the Migrant/Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office, the HSSCO continued to assist the Rivers of Culture/Rios de Cultura Coalition, a group of early learning leaders based in a culturally diverse region of Washington State, in developing a plan for building a community-based early learning system.

The Rivers of Culture/Rios de Cultura Coalition involves a number of community partners dedicated to early learning, from Head Start programs (Head Start/Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start and American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start) to school districts to Child Care Resource and Referral, with a specific focus on building an early learning system grounded in culture and language. In 2008, the Rivers of Culture Coalition/Rios de Cultura engaged in developing a comprehensive early learning strategic plan in partnership with Dovetailing Consulting. The HSSCO continued to support the coalition by: 1) facilitating an official introduction to the Kids Matter framework (WA ECCS framework) as an optional tool in supporting the development of a strategic plan and in communicating to the larger community about early learning; 2) coordinating a presentation to the coalition from an early learning coalition based in the Spokane area of WA; 3) fostering relationship-building between coalition leaders and early learning foundations throughout the state; and 4) funding Dovetailing Consulting to conduct facilitation of the strategic planning process. The HSSCO was able to support coalition leaders in leveraging funding from three primary sources (Department of Early Learning/HSSCO, Foundation for Early Learning, and six (6) local school districts) to implement the strategic planning process.

Head Start/Pre-K Partnership Survey

The HS-SCO partnered with the national HS-SCO office and the state's Pre-K Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) in selecting and recognizing the accomplishments of a model Head Start/Pre-K partnership in Kitsap County, Washington. The HS-SCO conducted a survey with the model partnership programs, which included two Head Start programs, two ECEAP programs, and two Tribal Head Start programs to obtain information about their successes and challenges in facilitating their partnership efforts. The survey responses were submitted to the national HS-SCO office for later publication.

How do your responses to the questions above impact your approved workplan for the current or coming year?

The HSSCO will continue to evolve and adapt in 2008, largely based on its evolving context within the Department of Early Learning (DEL). In early 2008, DEL presented four new strategic goal areas, all of which have been aligned with the HSSCO's Continuation Application for FY 09-10. Further, the HSSCO will examine its role in promoting action and providing leadership to projects related to all nine priority areas—particularly those that may not have been addressed to the extent that others were in 2008. In summary, the HSSCO's work plan and grant funds for the coming year will be greatly influenced by and aligned with DEL strategic planning, results of the statewide needs assessment of Head Start programs, and existing projects and initiatives.